

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.622(b),
Table of Allotments,
Digital Television Broadcast Stations
(Macon, Georgia)

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MM Docket No. 01-1 /
RM-10013

To: Chief, Video Services Division

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REPLY COMMENTS OF GANNETT GEORGIA, L.P.

Marnie K. Sarver
Eve J. Klindera
of
Wiley, Rein & Fielding
1776 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 719-7404

Counsel for GANNETT GEORGIA, L.P.

March 13, 2001

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I. Introduction and Summary

Gannett Georgia, LP (“Gannett”), the licensee of WMAZ-TV, Macon, Georgia, by its attorneys, hereby submits its reply comments in the above-referenced proceeding. In the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,¹ the Commission proposed to amend the Table of Allotments for the digital television service (“DTV Table”) to change the initial DTV channel allotment for station WMAZ from channel 45 to channel 4 and to delete channel 45 from the DTV table. Two other parties submitted comments in this proceeding.

The Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission (“GPTC”), licensee of noncommercial educational station WGTV-TV, Athens, Georgia, filed a counterproposal requesting that the Commission change WGTV’s DTV channel allotment to channel 4. Macon Urban Ministries, Inc., d/b/a Good News Television, licensee of WGNM, Channel 64, Macon, Georgia, filed a counterproposal requesting that, should the FCC change WMAZ’s DTV

¹ See Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Macon, Georgia), DA 01-01 (Jan, 5, 2001) (“NPRM”).

allotment from channel 45 to channel 4, it should not delete channel 45 from the DTV table, but instead change WGNM's DTV allotment to channel 45. For the reasons set forth below, Gannett urges the Commission to reject WGTV's counterproposal and change WMAZ's DTV allotment from channel 45 to channel 4. Because the proposal to assign channel 45 to WGNM is contingent on the Commission's assignment of channel 4 to WMAZ, Gannett takes no position with respect to the WGNM proposal *per se*.

II. GPTC's Proposal Fails to Satisfy Applicable Technical Criteria and Should be Rejected

As demonstrated in the attached Engineering Statement of Joseph M. Davis, P.E., GPTC's proposal suffers from several major technical defects, any one of which warrant rejection of the proposed change in WGTV's DTV allocation to channel 4. See Exhibit 1. Initially, the proposal would cause interference to an existing NTSC station beyond the FCC's *de minimis* limit, and therefore fails to comply with section 73.623(c) of the Commission's rules. See id.; 47 C.F.R. § 73.623(c). Second, GPTC's proposal decreases the level of service that WGTV is able to provide to its community of license, due to incoming interference from other broadcast signals. Third, although GPTC claims that adoption of its proposal will serve the Commission's goal of providing increased service to rural and underserved areas, the proposal would actually decrease the number of persons residing in rural counties who receive service from WGTV. Finally, the proposal does not allow WGTV to meet the FCC's recently enhanced principal community signal strength requirements, which become effective on December 31, 2005, in that the proposed facilities would not be able to provide a 35 dBu contour to the

station's entire community of license.² As such, a grant of the proposal would directly contravene the Commission's rules and its interest in ensuring that DTV licensees serve their communities of license.

Section 73.623(c) of the Commission's rules requires a licensee who requests a change in the DTV table to demonstrate that the requested change will not result in more than *de minimis* interference to an existing station. 47 C.F.R. § 73.623(c)(2). A detailed engineering analysis of the GPTC proposal reveals that the proposed WGTV operations on channel 4 will cause 2.8 % interference to the population served by WYFF(TV), Greenville, South Carolina. See Exhibit 1 at 2, Table 1. Although GPTC's counterproposal includes an engineering statement purporting to demonstrate that WGTV operations on channel 4 will comply with the applicable interference limits, its engineering calculations rely on the presence of WMAZ on channel 4. See id. at 2. The engineering analysis appended to the GPTC counterproposal relies on the incorrect assumption that WMAZ would "mask" some of the incoming interference from WGTV to WYFF. See id.

This analysis, however, is fundamentally flawed, because under GPTC's proposal WGTV, and not WMAZ, would operate on channel 4. Accordingly, any "masking" effects that WMAZ operations on channel 4 would provide are irrelevant to the analysis of WGTV operations on channel 4. See id. at 2-3. Considering the GPTC proposal on its own, WGTV operations on channel 4 would cause 2.8 percent interference to WYFF, in excess of the FCC's

² See Exhibit 1; Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television, FCC 01-24, ¶ 27 (Jan. 21, 2001) (revising section 73.623(a) to require a stations operating on channels 2-6 to provide a DTV city grade contour of 35 dBu to their entire community of license) (DTV Biennial Review Order).

de minimis interference limits. See id. at 2-3, Table 1. Accordingly, WGTV's proposal must be rejected.

In addition, WGTV's proposed channel 4 operations would be subject to considerable amounts of incoming interference. See id. at 3-4. Based on the current 28 dBu principal community field strength, 64.9 percent of the area and 54.8 percent of the population of Athens would be subject to incoming interference. See id. at 4. In addition, 4.9 percent of the area and 15.4 percent of the population of Athens would be subject to terrain losses. See id. Therefore, under GPTC's proposal, only 30.2 percent of the area and 29.8 percent of the population of Athens will be able to enjoy interference-free reception of WGTV. See id. These interference values only increase when the Commission's future 35 dBu principal community coverage requirements are considered, leaving Athens with an extremely low level of service from WGTV.

Moreover, WGTV's contention that its proposal would permit it to provide increased service to rural and underserved areas does not withstand analysis. Currently, WGTV's authorized channel 22 facility would replicate 102.3 percent of its NTSC facility. See id. at 5. Under GPTC's proposal to operate WGTV on channel 4, however, only 96.3 percent of the station's NTSC facility will be replicated. See id. A county-by-county analysis reveals that much of the loss in service that would result from changing WGTV's allotment to channel 4 would occur in the counties with the smallest populations. See id. at 5, Table 2. For example, WGTV DTV operations on channel 22 would reach 106.6 percent of the population of Oglethorpe County (pop. 9,763) currently served by the station, while proposed WGTV DTV operations on channel 4 would reach *only* 5.5 percent of those currently served. See id. In Greene County (pop. 11,793), WGTV's current authorization would allow it to reach 95.1 percent of its current audience, while channel 4 operations would reach *only* 4.3 percent of those

currently served. See id. Accordingly, WGTW operations on channel 4 would impede, rather than serve, the goal of providing increased service to rural and underserved areas.

Finally, under GPTC's proposal, WGTW will not comply with the Commission's recently enhanced principal community signal strength requirements. As noted above, Section 73.623(a), as recently amended in the Commission's Biennial Review proceeding, requires an NCE licensee operating on channels 2 – 6 to place a 35 dBu contour over its entire community of license by December 31, 2005. See DTV Biennial Review Order at ¶ 27, Appendix A. As demonstrated by the attached Engineering Statement, GPTC's proposal would provide a 35 dBu contour to only 37.7 percent of the land area and 25.1 percent of the population of Athens, WGTW's community of license. See Exhibit 1 at 3, Figure 1. These figures demonstrate that the proposal fails to meet the future principal community coverage requirements, and GPTC provides no explanation of how it intends to meet the Commission's increased signal strength requirement. Moreover, any attempt by GPTC to increase WGTW's power to provide a 35 dBu contour to Athens would only further increase interference to WYFF. See id. at 4, 6. In light of WGTW's inability to meet the Commission's enhanced signal strength requirements, a grant of its proposal would be contrary to the FCC's goal of "prevent[ing] the migration of licensees from their community of license." DTV Biennial Review Order at ¶ 31.

Gannett notes that GPTC currently holds a construction permit which authorizes WGTW to operate at 600 kW on channel 22. Interference-free service levels are superior under WGTW's current authorization than they would be under GPTC's counterproposal. Specifically, WGTW operations on channel 22 would not be subject to any interference in or near Athens. See id. at 4, Figure 4. In addition, WGTW's current authorization would allow replication of 103.3 percent of the station's NTSC facility, providing better service to both Athens and the surrounding areas.

See Exhibit 1 at 5. In particular, rural and underserved areas will be far better served by DTV operations on channel 22, as opposed to channel 4. See id. at 5, Table 2. Moreover, WGTV's current authorization enables it to place the current required contour over Athens, and also will meet the stronger service contour requirement that becomes applicable in at the end of 2005. See Exhibit 1 at 4, Figure 3.³

In sum, GPTC's counterproposal must be rejected. As demonstrated above, GPTC's current DTV allotment provides it with the capability to meet the Commission's *de minimis* interference limits, replicate its analog signal in Athens and meet the Commission's increased principal community signal strength requirements, while its proposal for channel 4 does not. See Exhibit 1. Any benefit that might be gained from an increase in the resources devoted to educational programming on WGTV is more than offset by the decrease in service that Athens' residents would receive from the station's operations on channel 4. Under WGTV's proposal, the citizens that the FCC's rules require WGTV to serve⁴ will not receive a quality signal from the station, due to interference from other broadcast signals. See Exhibit 1. Indeed, under WGTV's proposal, the station's signal will not even be viewable to a significant percentage of its community of license. Moreover, WGTV operations on channel 4 would sharply decrease the

³ At channel 22, the Commission's rules currently require the station to place a 41 dBu contour over Athens. See DTV Biennial Review Order at ¶ 27, Appendix A. By December 31, 2005, the station will have to place a 48 dBu contour over Athens. See id.

⁴ Although certain general obligations of broadcasters are not directly applicable to noncommercial educational television licensees, all broadcasters retain the obligation to serve their communities of license, and NCE licensees are required by section 73.3527 of the Commission's rules to report on their public interest programming activities. 47 C.F.R. § 73.3527. See Public Interest Obligations of TV Broadcast Licensees, FCC 99-390, ¶ 2 (Dec. 20, 1999) (stating that "broadcast licensees must provide coverage of issues facing their communities.").

number of persons who reside in rural and underserved areas who would have access to WGTV's broadcast signal. In short, the channel 4 proposal is unworkable. By contrast, WGTV's current DTV allotment permits it to provide interference-free service to Athens, provides better service to rural and underserved areas, and fully complies with the FCC's current and future signal strength requirements, leaving the Commission no basis to change WGTV's DTV allotment to channel 4.

III. Gannett's Proposal Satisfies All Applicable Technical Criteria and Should be Granted

As demonstrated above, GPTC's proposal suffers from major technical defects that should prevent the Commission from changing WGTV's DTV allocation to channel 4. Gannett's proposal to change WMAZ's DTV allotment to channel 4, on the other hand, will provide interference-free service to 115.7 percent of the station's NTSC facility. See Exhibit 1 at 6; NPRM at ¶ 3. In addition, the WMAZ proposal fully complies with the Commission's increased signal strength requirements. See Exhibit 1 at 6. Finally, in contrast to the GPTC proposal, WMAZ operations on channel 4 will actually increase the percentage of persons residing in rural and underserved areas who are able to receive the station's signal. Accordingly, the Commission should reject GPTC's proposal and change WMAZ's DTV allotment to channel 4.

IV. WMAZ's Proposal Provides Superior Public Interest Benefits

As set forth in WMAZ's Petition for Rulemaking, DTV operations on channel 4 would provide coverage to over 100 percent of the population-limited area provided by WMAZ-TV NTSC channel 13. In addition, the power utility and other expenses of WMAZ's DTV facility

would be substantially reduced as a result of changing WMAZ's DTV allotment from channel 45 to channel 4. Consistent with WMAZ's demonstrated commitment to serving the community of Macon and surrounding areas of central Georgia, these cost savings will translate directly into improved local service for the residents of WMAZ's community of license. Furthermore, changing WMAZ's DTV allotment to channel 4 will allow it to better serve rural and underserved areas of central Georgia by increasing the station's area of service.

WMAZ has a long history of providing superior programming which targets the needs and interests of Macon residents. This commitment to local service will be bolstered by changing the station's DTV allotment to channel 4. In order to ensure that its viewers have access to news and information, WMAZ currently produces and airs 27 hours of *local* news per week, focusing largely on topics of significant concern to citizens of central Georgia. WMAZ is committed to providing live coverage of breaking news events, and, in furtherance of this goal, was the first station to obtain "Live Eyes"—specially equipped vans which permit up-to-the minute live broadcasts from the field. In addition to its regularly scheduled and special breaking news reports, WMAZ airs numerous programs that are specifically designed to serve the residents of Macon. These include weekly programs which highlight issues affecting the local economy and deal with events facing the local agricultural community. WMAZ also periodically broadcasts Townhall meetings covering issues of local concern, in partnership with Macon community organizations. The station also gives back to the community, by raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually through its Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon and Children's Miracle Network broadcasts. Changing WMAZ's DTV allotment from channel 45 to channel 4 will permit a broader segment of central Georgia's population to have access to the station's *locally* oriented programming. Moreover, the cost savings generated by more efficient

DTV operations on channel 4 can benefit WMAZ's community of license, through increased expenditures on the local public affairs programming and service activities which are and have been the station's hallmark throughout its history.

WMAZ also undertakes to provide children who reside in Macon with focused programming and services. In addition to its other regularly scheduled children's educational and informational programming, WMAZ airs a *locally* produced *weekly* children's television show, in order to ensure that the special needs of youth in the Macon community are addressed. WMAZ also engages in substantial community activities targeted at Macon's children, through its 13 WMAZ Kid Zone and Junior Journalist programs, which began in 1997. The Kid Zone Program aims to use the reach and influence of the television station to enhance the lives of young people in central Georgia. The program exposes its participants, children from throughout WMAZ's community of license, to experiences designed to foster an awareness of the value of education, communication and community commitment. Children participate in the Kid Zone program through the Junior Journalist program, which employs a staff of twenty-six Junior Journalists. Each year, thirteen children are chosen to serve in Phase One of the program—"Broadcasters in Training." During their first year in the program, the children learn the basics of news reporting and production through the weekly "My Teacher is Tops" on-air program. The following year, these students move to Phase Two of the program, and a new team is chosen to begin Phase One. During Phase Two, the children are responsible for finding and developing news stories that are relevant to their schools and communities. The Junior Journalists set up their own interviews, and working with a reporter and photographer, shoot, write, edit, and anchor their stories for broadcast on the station. Junior Journalists have interviewed former President Clinton and the Governor of Georgia, been behind the scenes of the Elite Model

Search, and promoted reading through “Best Book” features. The children also take part in all station-sponsored community events, including central Georgia’s largest holiday food and toy drive, central Georgia’s largest “Tools for Schools” drive, and a quarterly car seat safety program.

The cost savings that will be generated by changing WMAZ’s DTV allotment to channel 4 will make it possible for the station to improve and expand its already high level of service to the Macon community, particularly its children, as well as increase the ability of persons in rural and underserved areas surrounding Macon to access WMAZ’s locally-oriented broadcast programming. While GPTC attempts to lay exclusive claim to the prospect of improved broadcast service, WMAZ’s heritage of superior *local* service to its community amply demonstrates its equal claim to credit for superior public interest programming.

In contrast, GPTC’s proposal actually decreases its ability to serve Athens. Specifically, as a result of interference from WYFF, Greenville, South Carolina, 4.9 percent of the area and 15.4 percent of the population of Athens will be terrain-blocked, meaning that they will not be able to receive the signal at all. See id. at 4, Figure 2. An additional 64.9 percent of the area and 54.8 of the population of Athens will be subject to incoming interference. See id. Because the cost savings that would be generated by operating WGTV on channel 4 will come at the expense of decreased service to the station’s community of license, GPTC’s proposal should be rejected.

GPTC also argues that the cost savings it will achieve through operation on channel 4 will benefit the public by allowing more efficient implementation of its Rural Broadband initiative. Initially, Gannett notes that the Commission’s consistent focus throughout the DTV transition (and, indeed, throughout the history of television service) has been upon ensuring the

continued availability of free, local, over-the-air broadcast television service.⁵ As a result, GPTC's plan to use its DTV spectrum to provide broadband Internet access service to rural and underserved areas must be given secondary weight in the allotment analysis. Furthermore, given that GPTC's current DTV allotment will permit it to provide better broadcast service than its proposed channel 4 operations, any cost savings applied to its Rural Broadband initiative would come at the expense of the FCC's primary goal.

Additionally, WGTV's current DTV allotment provides it with a larger service area, and would therefore provide broadband service to a larger percentage of the Athens and metropolitan Atlanta population. Indeed, as demonstrated above, GPTC's contention that WGTV DTV operations on channel 4 will increase service to rural and underserved areas does not hold up under scrutiny, and in actuality adoption of the GPTC proposal will severely *decrease* the percentage of persons residing in rural Georgia which the station is able to serve. See Exhibit 1 at 4-5, Table 2. When taken together, the station's decreased ability to provide a quality broadcast signal to its community of license and the reduction in the number of persons who will have access to the broadband service belie GPTC's claim that broadband benefits would accrue as a result of changing WGTV's DTV allotment to channel 4.

Moreover, Gannett on its part is a founding partner in iBlast, which will use a dedicated portion of the digital spectrum assigned to Gannett's broadcast stations, including WMAZ, to

⁵ See, e.g. Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, 12 FCC Rcd 12809, ¶ 4 (April 21, 1997) ("First, we wish to promote and preserve free, universally available, local broadcast television in a digital world."); Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service, 10 FCC Rcd 10540, ¶ 6 (August 9, 1995) (listing the preservation of "a free, universal broadcasting service" as the primary goal during the transition to digital television).

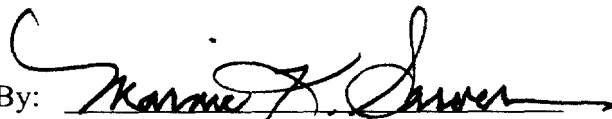
provide high-speed, over-the-air broadband digital content and services to consumers. iBlast now has agreements with 20 major television station groups, and its wireless distribution network will enable stations such as WMAZ to distribute local data content to residents of Macon, as well as rural and underserved areas in the vicinity of Macon. Changing WMAZ's DTV allotment to channel 4 will therefore serve both the Commission's primary interest in ensuring the availability of free, over-the-air broadcast service, as well as the ancillary goal of increasing high-speed Internet access service to rural and underserved areas. Accordingly, WMAZ's proposal should be granted as supplying superior public interest benefits.

V. Conclusion

As demonstrated above, GPTC's proposal fails to satisfy the FCC's technical criteria for DTV stations and must be rejected. Moreover, changing WMAZ's DTV allotment to channel 4 will provide superior public service benefits to the station's community of license. Accordingly, Gannett respectfully requests that the Commission amend the DTV Table to change WMAZ's DTV allotment from channel 45 to channel 4.

Respectfully submitted,

GANNETT GEORGIA, L.P.

By: 

Marnie K. Sarver

Eve J. Klindera

of

Wiley, Rein & Fielding

1776 K Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 719-7404

Its Attorneys

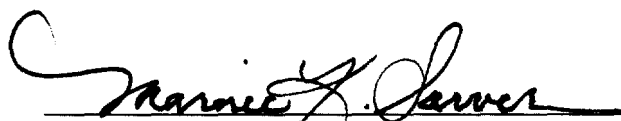
March 13, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Marnie K. Sarver, do hereby certify that I have this 13th day of March, 2001, caused to be delivered by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, the foregoing **REPLY** **COMMENTS OF GANNETT GEORGIA, L.P.** to the following parties:

Amy E. Weissman, Esq.
Arnold & Porter
555 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Counsel to Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission

J. Geoffrey Bentley, Esq.
Bentley Law Office
P. O. Box 710207
Herndon, VA 20171
Counsel to Macon Urban Ministries, Inc., d/b/a Good News Television


Marnie K. Sarver

ENGINEERING STATEMENT

prepared for

Gannett Georgia, L.P.

WMAZ-DT Macon, Georgia

MM Docket 01-1

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This engineering statement has been prepared on behalf of *Gannett Georgia, L.P.* ("Gannett"), in support of *Reply Comments* in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Mass Media Docket 01-1.¹ The subject docket proposes to change the paired digital television (DTV) assignment for WMAZ-TV (NTSC Channel 13, Macon, GA) from DTV Channel 45 to DTV Channel 4, as requested by *Gannett*.

In its comments filed in Docket 01-1, *Georgia Public Telecommunications Commission* ("GPTC"), licensee of WGTW(TV) (NTSC Channel 8, Athens, GA), provides a counterproposal. In *GPTC's* counterproposal, WGTW-DT would be assigned DTV Channel 4 in lieu of its present Channel 22 allotment. This counterproposal is mutually exclusive with *Gannett's* use of DTV Channel 4 at Macon, GA.

However, a detailed engineering analysis of the *GPTC* counterproposal showed that it does not comply with §73.623(c) of the Commission's Rules regarding DTV channel changes, in that the *GPTC* proposal would cause interference to an existing NTSC station in excess of the Commission's *de minimis* limit. Secondly, the *GPTC* counterproposal would not meet §73.625(a), as recently changed by the Commission, since the WGTW principal community would not be fully encompassed by the required coverage contour. Additionally, predicted interference within the principal community would reduce even further the area and population that could be served by the counterproposal facility. Thirdly, while *GPTC* claims that the counterproposal is important to its goal of serving rural communities, the actual population of many rural counties that would be served by the counterproposal is sharply less than that which would be served by the existing WGTW-DT Construction Permit facility on its assigned Channel 22.

¹See *Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, Digital Television Broadcast Stations (Macon, Georgia)*, MM Docket No. 01-1, RM 10013, released January 5, 2001.

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Discussion - Counterproposal Does Not Meet Commission's Interference Criteria

DTV channel change requests are subject to the interference criteria with respect to other full-power NTSC and DTV stations and allotments. Per §73.623(c)(2), a channel change proposal cannot exceed the Commission's 2% / 10% *de minimis* interference limits to such stations. Accordingly, detailed interference studies were conducted by the undersigned regarding the counterproposal in accordance with the terrain dependent Longley-Rice point-to-point propagation model, per the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology Bulletin number 69, *Longley-Rice Methodology for Evaluating TV Coverage and Interference*, July 2, 1997 ("OET-69").²

The results showed that the *GPTC* counterproposal causes 2.8 percent new interference to the population served by WYFF(TV), Greenville, SC (NTSC Ch. 4, 202.5 km distant). The WYFF interference-free service population "before" consideration of the *GPTC* counterproposal is 1,783,114 persons. The WYFF interference-free service population "after" consideration of the counterproposal is 1,722,023. This reduction in service population would affect 61,091 persons, or 2.79 percent of the WYFF noise-limited contour population of 2,191,475. The attached **Table 1** summarizes the interference study result to WYFF (results to other affected stations are not included). Thus, the Commission's 2 percent *de minimis* limit regarding new interference to WYFF is exceeded, and the counterproposal does not meet the requirements of §73.623(c)(2).

It is noted that *GPTC's* determination of new interference to WYFF, in its engineering exhibits 15A and 16A, included the *de minimis* interference to WYFF that would be caused by *Gannett's* WMAZ-DT Channel 4 petition (designated in their exhibit as "WMAZ-D.P.A"). *GPTC's* analysis make the incorrect assumption that the WMAZ-DT *de minimis* interference to WYFF is an "existing" condition, such that it would "mask" some of the new incoming interference from its counterproposal for WGTW-DT. Since *GPTC* intended its counterproposal to replace the WMAZ-DT Channel 4 proposal, the *de minimis* interference from *Gannett's* WMAZ-DT Channel 4 proposal cannot be considered "built in" to the existing interference to WYFF. The impact of the *GPTC*

²The implementation of OET-69 for this study followed the guidelines of OET-69 as specified therein. A standard cell size of 2 km was used. Comparisons of various results of this computer program to the Commission's implementation of OET-69 show good correlation.

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counterproposal to WYFF must be analyzed on its own, without reliance on “masking” of interference by the WMAZ-DT proposed facility. When properly analyzed in this fashion, *GPTC*’s counterproposal would cause 2.8 percent new interference to WYFF, which does not meet the requirements of §73.623(c)(2).

Counterproposal Lacks Coverage to Principal Community

WGTV’s principal community of Athens, Georgia is located 73 km from the counterproposal’s allotment point. At this great distance, *GPTC*’s counterproposal in its current form does not comply with the Commission’s requirement for principal community coverage, as recently changed. In the Commission’s periodic review of DTV in MM Docket 00-39,³ the Commission increased the required principal community coverage requirement. For DTV Channel 4, as specified in the *GPTC* counterproposal, the minimum level of service to the principal community is the 35 dB μ F(50,90) contour, and must be achieved by December 31, 2005 (for noncommercial stations, such as WGTV).

As depicted in the attached **Figure 1**, the Commission’s now-temporary requirement for principal community service of the 28 dB μ F(50,90) contour to Athens would be met by the *GPTC* counterproposal. The 1990 Census boundary of Athens is shown on **Figure 1**. However, the 35 dB μ F(50,90) contour covers only 37.7 percent of the land area and 25.1 percent of the population of Athens (i.e., only 16.24 square km of Athens’ 43 square km are covered, and only 11,492 of Athens’ 45,736 population is covered). *GPTC*’s counterproposal does not address this shortfall, nor does *GPTC* indicate in their counterproposal how principal community coverage will be provided after December 31, 2005.

Further, reception of the Channel 4 counterproposal facility in Athens and the surrounding area will be subject to a considerable amount of incoming interference. The attached **Figure 2** depicts the predicted coverage and incoming interference, based on OET-69. As demonstrated thereon, a significant part of the east-northeastern service area of the Channel 4 counterproposal

³See *Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television*, MM Docket 00-39, FCC 01-24, released January 19, 2001.

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would be affected by interference. The OET-69 analysis showed that 64.9 percent of the area and 54.8 percent of the population of Athens would be subject to incoming interference. 4.9 percent of the area and 15.4 percent of the population of Athens would be subject to terrain losses. This leaves only 30.2 percent of the area and 29.8 percent of the population of Athens that could enjoy interference-free reception of the counterproposal facility. Since the OET-69 analysis is based on the current 28 dB μ principal community field strength requirement, when the future 35 dB μ field strength requirement is considered the level of service to Athens will be even more pessimistic.

Most of the interference would be caused by existing co-channel NTSC station WYFF. The WYFF Grade B contour location is also provided on **Figure 2**. As shown, it passes very near Athens. The close proximity of the WYFF Grade B contour to Athens corresponds to the predictions of the large areas of predicted interference to the *GPTC* counterproposal facility.

GPTC holds a Construction Permit ("CP") authorizing WGTV-DT to operate at 600 kW on its allotted DTV Channel 22. For comparison, the attached **Figure 3** provides the locations for the 41 dB μ and the 48 dB μ F(50,90) contours, which represent the temporary (current) and future required field strength levels over the principal community for a UHF DTV station, respectively. As shown on **Figure 3**, Athens is encompassed by both of these contours, and the Commission's principal community coverage requirements are met for WGTV-DT's existing Channel 22 CP facility. **Figure 4** provides an map of OET-69 predicted coverage and interference. Unlike *GPTC's* counterproposal, no interference is predicted to occur in or near Athens to reception of the WGTV-DT CP facility. Thus, the presently authorized WGTV-DT facility would provide interference-free service to Athens in full compliance with the Commission's principal community service requirements.

Counterproposal Loses Replication and Rural Service

GPTC suggests that it will be better able to increase service to rural and underserved areas as a result of its counterproposal. However, analysis of the counterproposal indicates that service, especially to the outlying rural areas, would actually decrease.

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In the Commission's DTV allotment table,⁴ the NTSC service population for WGTW (Channel 8) is 3,264,000. The allotted DTV Channel 22 facility for WGTW-DT would provide service to 3,373,000 persons (per the Commission's table), which would provide "replication" to 103.3 percent of the WGTW NTSC facility. Calculations by the undersigned show that the authorized WGTW-DT CP Channel 22 facility would provide interference-free service to 3,338,984 persons, or 102.3 percent of the WGTW NTSC facility.

GPTC's counterproposal, however, would only provide service to 3,142,909 persons, achieving replication of only 96.3 percent of the WGTW NTSC facility. The *GPTC* Channel 4 counterproposal would serve 196,075 persons less than the WGTW-DT existing CP facility on Channel 22. The attached **Table 2** provides a detailed comparison of the population decreases on a county by county basis.

In particular, the counties in **Table 2** are listed in increasing order of population, with the least populated counties first. Logically, the more rural areas are typically those counties with the smallest population. *GPTC's* counterproposal is claiming to benefit rural areas, however **Table 2** shows that the counties with the smaller populations are the very ones that would experience decreased service under *GPTC's* counterproposal. For example, in Oglethorpe County (total population 9,763), 5,552 persons currently receive service from WGTW's NTSC facility. The WGTW-DT CP Channel 22 facility would reach 5,917 persons, or 106.6 percent of those currently served. With *GPTC's* counterproposal Channel 4 facility, only 308 persons in Oglethorpe County would receive service, or 5.5 percent of those currently served. Similar reductions are predicted for various other rural counties, including Banks, Greene, White, and Putnam under the counterproposal (see **Table 2**).

GPTC's counterproposal claims that multipath interference will affect its UHF DTV Channel 22 more so than its counter proposed use of DTV Channel 4. However, no qualitative data or engineering analysis is supplied by *GPTC* that can be used to determine if such multipath will be

⁴See MM Docket 87-268, *Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact upon the Existing Television Broadcast Service*, FCC 98-315, released December 18, 1998.

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so severe that any such disadvantages on Channel 22 will be worse than their Channel 4 counterproposal's loss of service demonstrated herein.

Replication for WMAZ-DT is Exceeded Under Rulemaking Proposal

The Commission's DTV allotment table provides an NTSC service population for WMAZ-TV (Channel 13) of 590,000. The DTV Channel 4 facility for WMAZ-DT (in lieu of its assigned Channel 45) as originally proposed by *Gannett* would provide interference-free service to 682,759 persons, or 115.7 percent of the WMAZ-TV NTSC facility. As has been established (and is not disputed) in the instant proceeding, the WMAZ-DT Channel 4 substitution complies with the Commission's interference criteria of §73.623(c)(2). Service to Macon would exceed the Commission's revised minimum requirement in §73.625(a).

Summary

GPTC's counterproposal does not comply with the Commission's interference criteria of §73.623(c)(2) and the revised principal community service requirements of §73.625(a). Incoming interference from WYFF also will impair reception of the counterproposal facility within its principal community. Should *GPTC* attempt to increase service to Athens to comply with the 35 dB μ principal community service requirement, the interference to WYFF (which already exceeds the *de minimis* limit) will be worsened. Full replication of the WGTV NTSC facility is not provided, particularly in rural counties. The existing WGTV-DT Channel 22 CP facility would provide more service to these rural areas. The WMAZ-DT original proposal provides 115.7 percent replication of its NTSC facility and complies fully with §73.623(c).

Certification

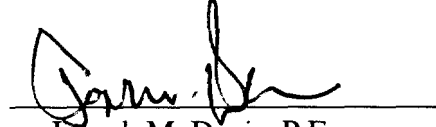
Under the penalty of perjury, the undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing statement was prepared by him or under his direction, and that it is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief. Mr. Davis is a principal in the firm of *Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.*, is a

Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.

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Registered Professional Engineer in Virginia, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University in Electrical Engineering Technology, and has submitted numerous engineering exhibits to various local governmental authorities and the Federal Communications Commission. His qualifications are a matter of record with that entity.



Joseph M. Davis, P.E.

March 12, 2001

Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.
10300 Eaton Place Suite 200
Fairfax, VA 22030
(703) 591-0110

List of Attachments:

Table 1	Interference Analysis Results Summary
Figure 1	GPTC Counterproposal Coverage Contours
Figure 2	GPTC Counterproposal OET Bulletin 69 Predicted Coverage and Interference
Figure 3	WGTV-DT Coverage Contours
Figure 4	WGTV-DT OET Bulletin 69 Predicted Coverage and Interference
Table 2	Population Summary

Table 1
INTERFERENCE ANALYSIS RESULTS SUMMARY FOR COUNTERPROPOSAL
 prepared for
Gannett Georgia, L.P.
 WMAZ-DT Macon, Georgia
 MM Docket 01-1

NTSC Facilities (partial listing)

<u>Stations Considered</u>	<u>City, State Channel</u>	<u>Distance (km)</u>	<u>Baseline Population (1)</u>	<u>Calculated “Before” Service Population (2)</u>	<u>Calculated “After” Service Population (3)</u>	<u>--- Net “New” Interference --- (“2 percent” test)</u>		<u>---Total Interference--- from DTV only (“10 percent” test)</u>	
						<u>Population (4)</u>	<u>Percentage (5)</u>	<u>Population (7)</u>	<u>Percentage (8)</u>
WYFF(TV) (Lic)	Greenville, SC 4	202.5	2,191,475	1,783,114	1,722,023	61,091	2.79	61,091	2.79

- Notes:
- (1) For DTV stations, greater of NTSC or DTV Service Population, from FCC Table
For NTSC stations, total population within noise-limited contour
 - (2) Service population after reduction from terrain and interference losses, before consideration of proposal
 - (3) Service population after reduction from terrain and interference losses, considering proposal
 - (4) Net change in population receiving interference resulting from proposal, equals (2) minus (3). A negative number indicates a *reduction* in interference.
 - (5) Proposal's impact in terms of percentage, equals (4)/(1) times 100 percent; not to exceed *de minimis* limit of 2.0 percent
 - (6) Total interference to DTV stations: equals 100 percent minus [(3)/(1) X 100%]; proposal may not add interference above 10% total. Zero total interference is indicated if (3) is greater than (1).
 - (7) NTSC station total population subject to interference from DTV only sources (considering proposal)
 - (8) Proposal's impact to NTSC station in terms of percentage, equals (7)/(1) times 100 percent; proposal may not add interference above 10% total

The determination of stations for consideration and the determination of baseline population and interference percentages were made as described in the Commission's August 10, 1998 Public Notice "*Additional Application Processing Guidelines for Digital Television*"

FIGURE 1
GPTC COUNTERPROPOSAL COVERAGE CONTOURS
DTV Ch. 4 3 kW 304 m

prepared March 2001 for
Gannett Georgia, L.P.

Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.
Fairfax, Virginia

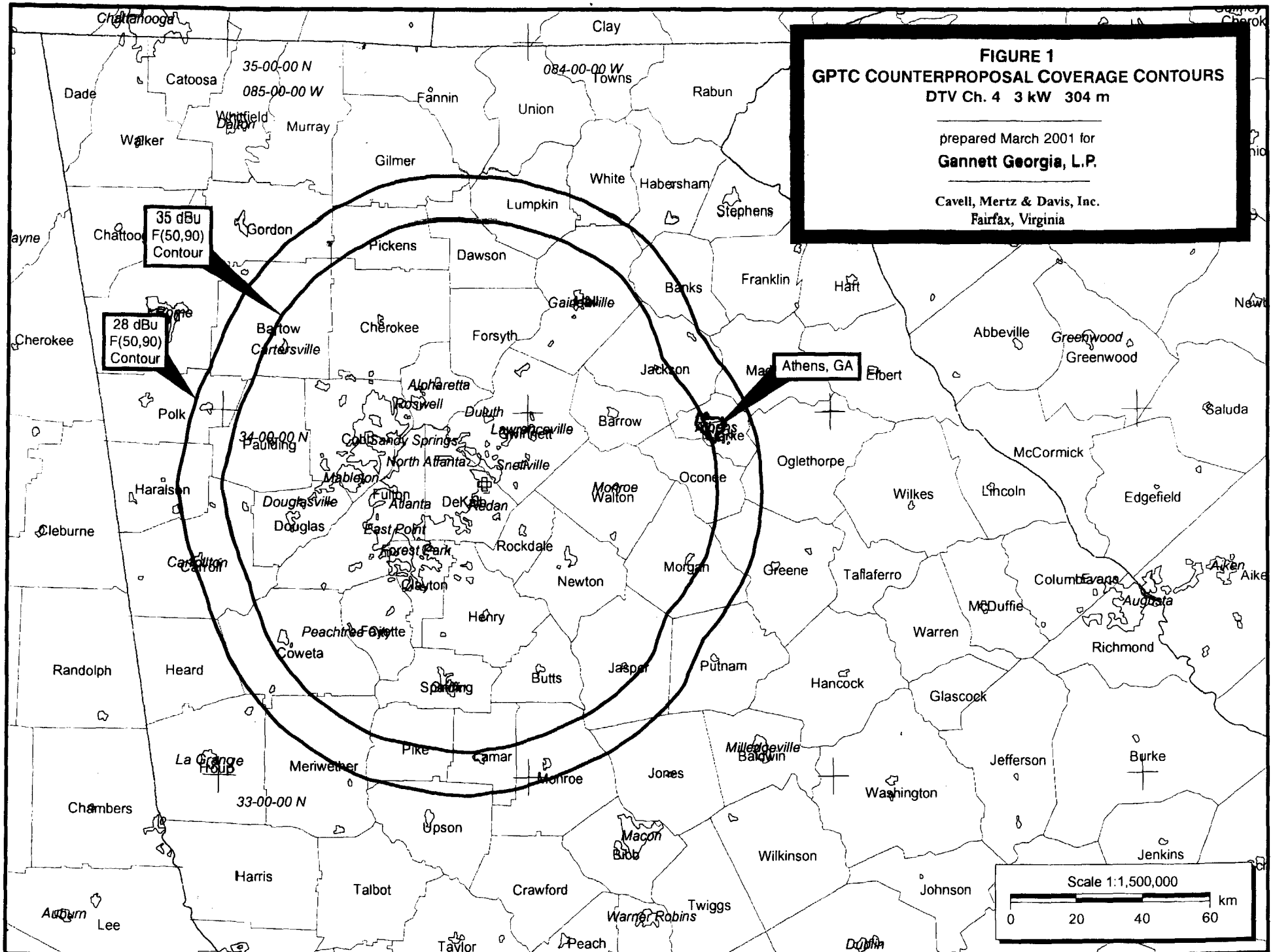


FIGURE 2
GPTC COUNTERPROPOSAL
OET BULLETIN 69
PREDICTED COVERAGE AND INTERFERENCE
 DTV Ch. 4 3 kW 304 m

prepared March 2001 for
 Gannett Georgia, L.P.

Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.
 Fairfax, Virginia

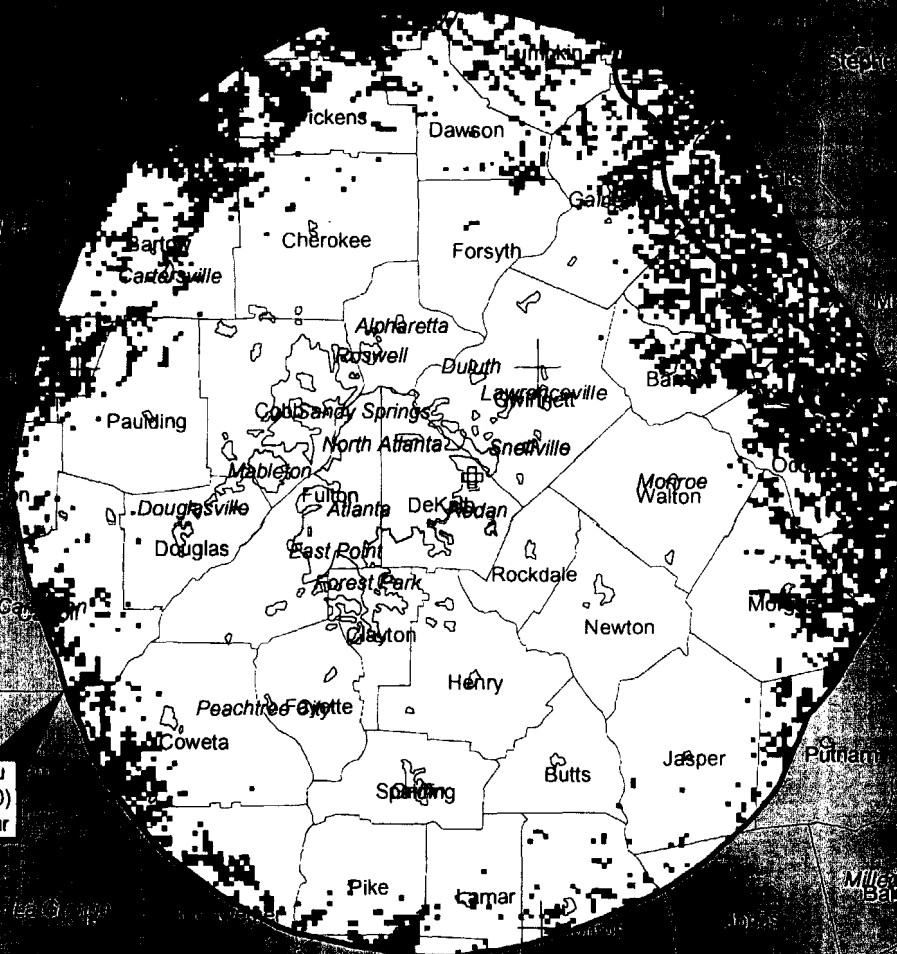
WYFF(TV) NTSC Ch. 4
 Greenville, SC
 47 dBu (Grade B) Contour

28 dBu
 F(50,90)
 Contour

Interference-Free
 Interference
 Signal below Threshold (Terrain Blocked)

Scale 1:1,500,000

0 20 40 60 km



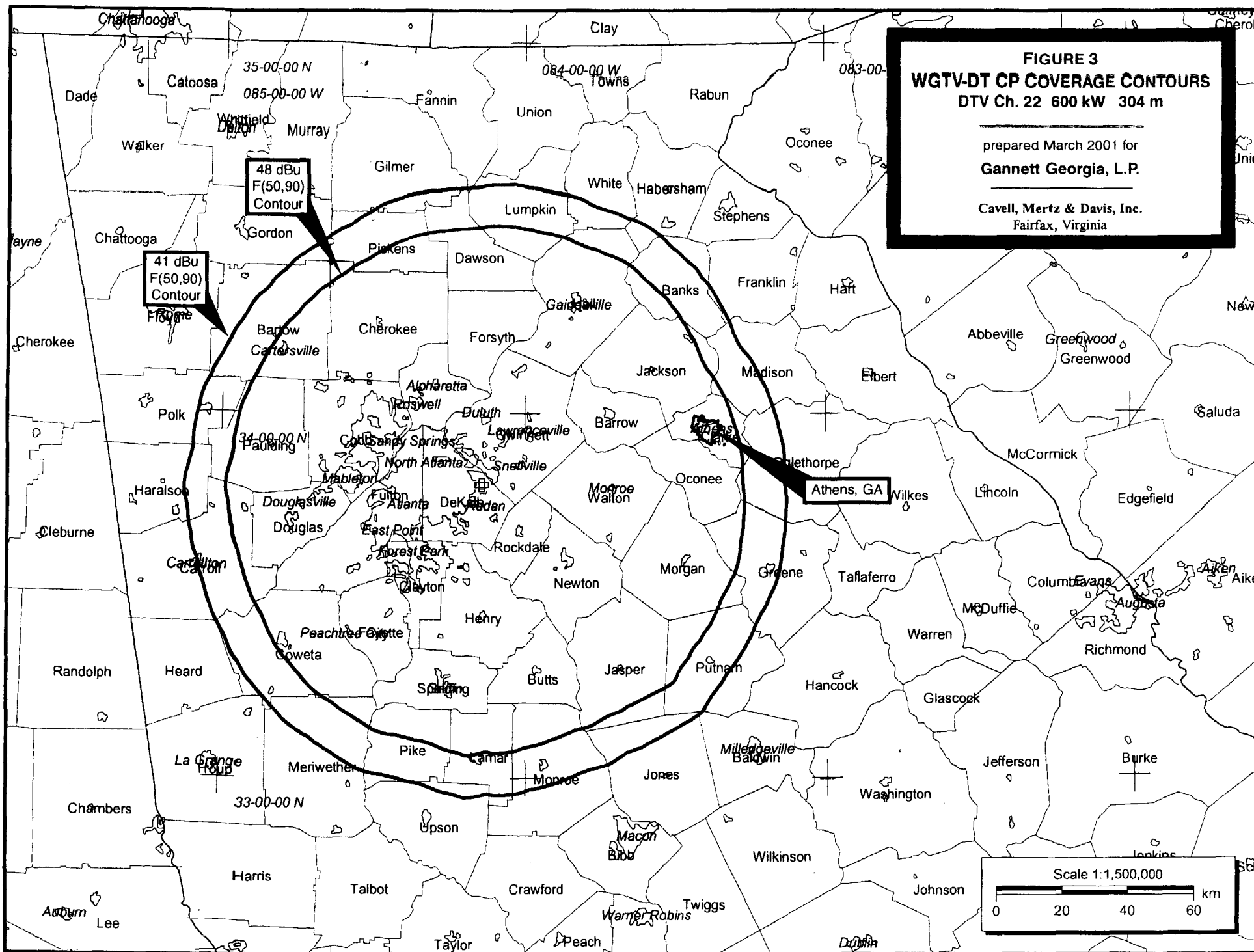


FIGURE 4
WGTV-DT (CP)
OET BULLETIN 69
PREDICTED COVERAGE AND INTERFERENCE
DTV Ch. 22 600 kW 304 m

prepared March 2001 for
Gannett Georgia, L.P.

Cavell, Mertz & Davis, Inc.
 Fairfax, Virginia

39.6 dBu
 F(50,90)
 Contour

Athens, GA

Scale 1:1,500,000

0 20 40 60 km

Interference-Free
 Interference
 Signal below Threshold (Terrain Blocked)

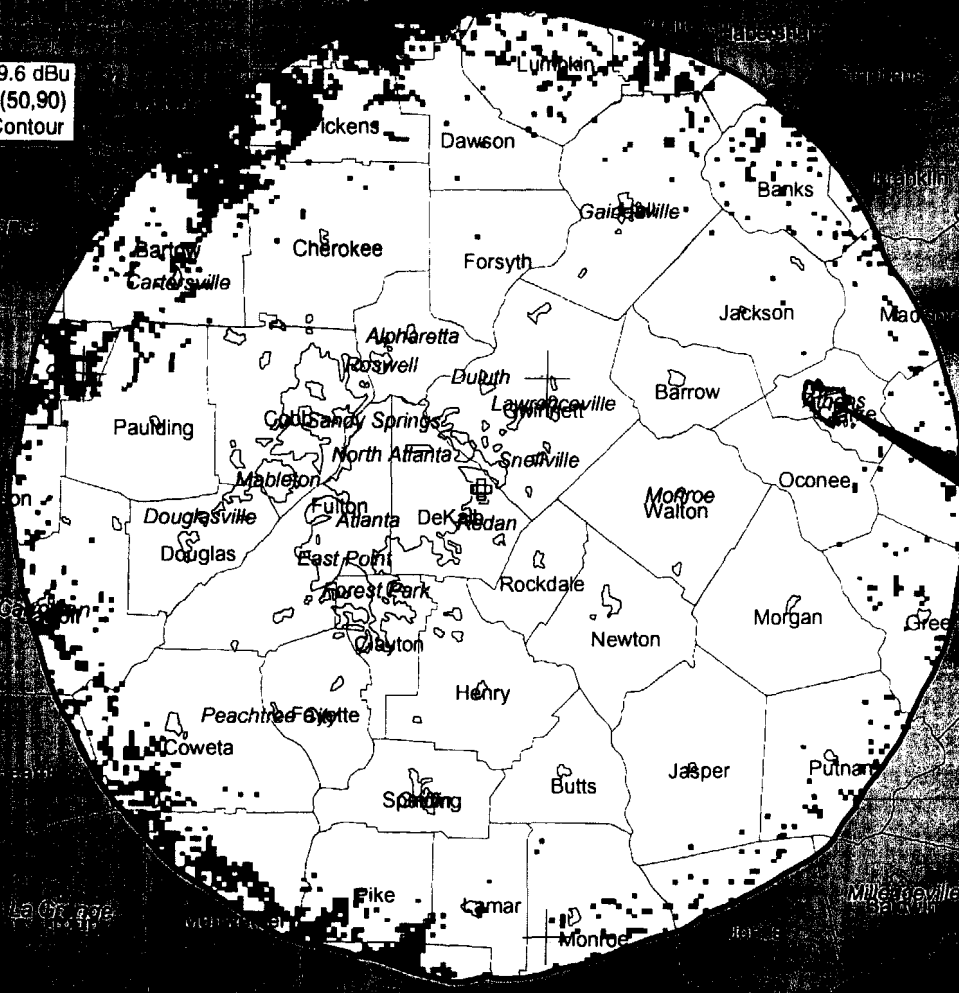


Table 2
POPULATION SUMMARY
PROPOSED WGTV-DT CHANNEL CHANGE
 prepared for
Gannett Georgia, L.P.
 WMAZ-DT Macon, Georgia
 MM Docket 01-1

County Name (Georgia) Ordered from least populated to most populated within WGTV service area	County Population (total) 1990 Census	WGTV(TV) NTSC Ch. 8 Licensed	WGTV-DT DTV Ch. 22 Construction Permit		WGTV-DT Ch. 4 Proposed Channel Allotment		Net Population Gain/Loss
		Interference- Free Service Population	Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	DTV CP Ch. 22 to Proposed DTV Ch. 4
Union County	6,624	31	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Jasper County	8,453	8,416	8,453	100.4	8,433	100.2	-20
Heard County	8,628	191	242	126.7	91	47.6	-151
Dawson County	9,429	9,429	9,429	100.0	8,220	87.2	-1,209
Oglethorpe County	9,763	5,552	5,917	106.6	308	5.5	-5,609
Pike County	10,224	8,121	9,219	113.5	9,569	117.8	350
Banks County	10,308	8,645	9,505	109.9	1,149	13.3	-8,356
Greene County	11,793	6,715	6,387	95.1	290	4.3	-6,097
Morgan County	12,883	12,768	12,883	100.9	7,949	62.3	-4,934
White County	13,006	5,078	4,759	93.7	561	11.0	-4,198
Lamar County	13,038	12,318	13,029	105.8	12,763	103.6	-266
Gilmer County	13,368	931	399	42.9	360	38.7	-39
Putnam County	14,137	9,638	11,536	119.7	1,191	12.4	-10,345
Pickens County	14,432	12,024	13,388	111.3	12,807	106.5	-581
Lumpkin County	14,573	12,442	13,318	107.0	11,060	88.9	-2,258
Butts County	15,326	15,326	15,326	100.0	15,326	100.0	0
Franklin County	16,650	1,214	969	79.8	0	0.0	-969

Table 2
POPULATION SUMMARY
PROPOSED WGTB-DT CHANNEL CHANGE
(page 2 of 3)

County Name (Georgia) Ordered from least populated to most populated within WGTB service area	County Population (total) 1990 Census	WGTB(TV) NTSC Ch. 8 Licensed Interference- Free Service Population	WGTB-DT DTV Ch. 22 Construction Permit		WGTB-DT Ch. 4 Proposed Channel Allotment		Net Population Gain/Loss DTV CP Ch. 22 to Proposed DTV Ch. 4
			Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	
Monroe County	17,113	10,206	12,701	124.4	9,760	95.6	-2,941
Oconee County	17,618	17,502	17,502	100.0	4,439	25.4	-13,063
Jones County	20,739	1,482	2,165	146.1	250	16.9	-1,915
Madison County	21,050	15,125	15,564	102.9	1,080	7.1	-14,484
Haralson County	21,966	2,441	7,416	303.8	7,381	302.4	-35
Meriwether County	22,411	5,241	5,127	97.8	5,818	111.0	691
Upton County	26,300	964	1,362	141.3	925	96.0	-437
Habersham County	27,621	8,550	5,412	63.3	101	1.2	-5,311
Barrow County	29,721	29,721	29,721	100.0	20,008	67.3	-9,713
Jackson County	30,005	30,005	30,005	100.0	12,485	41.6	-17,520
Polk County	33,815	4,218	8,276	196.2	3,667	86.9	-4,609
Gordon County	35,072	1,217	1,382	113.6	1,390	114.2	8
Walton County	38,586	38,586	38,586	100.0	38,543	99.9	-43
Baldwin County	39,530	132	104	78.8	0	0.0	-104
Paulding County	41,611	40,199	41,550	103.4	41,350	102.9	-200
Newton County	41,808	41,808	41,808	100.0	41,808	100.0	0
Forsyth County	44,083	44,083	44,083	100.0	43,959	99.7	-124
Coweta County	53,853	30,844	51,644	167.4	50,745	164.5	-899
Rockdale County	54,091	54,091	54,091	100.0	54,091	100.0	0
Spalding County	54,457	54,457	54,457	100.0	54,457	100.0	0

Table 2
POPULATION SUMMARY
PROPOSED WGTV-DT CHANNEL CHANGE
(page 3 of 3)

County Name (Georgia) Ordered from least populated to most populated within WGTV service area	County Population (total) 1990 Census	WGTV(TV) NTSC Ch. 8 Licensed	WGTV-DT DTV Ch. 22 Construction Permit		WGTV-DT Ch. 4 Proposed Channel Allotment		Net Population Gain/Loss
		Interference- Free Service Population	Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	Interference- Free Service Population	Percent Match of Licensed NTSC Facility	DTV CP Ch. 22 to Proposed DTV Ch. 4
Troup County	55,536	0	72	n/a	72	n/a	0
Bartow County	55,911	40,865	47,444	116.1	46,715	114.3	-729
Henry County	58,741	58,741	58,741	100.0	58,741	100.0	0
Fayette County	62,415	62,415	62,415	100.0	62,415	100.0	0
Douglas County	71,120	70,004	71,120	101.6	71,120	101.6	0
Carroll County	71,422	24,559	50,444	205.4	34,687	141.2	-15,757
Floyd County	81,251	433	450	103.9	398	91.9	-52
Clarke County	87,594	87,594	87,594	100.0	47,675	54.4	-39,919
Cherokee County	90,204	90,002	90,066	100.1	90,033	100.0	-33
Hall County	95,428	95,348	95,428	100.1	71,224	74.7	-24,204
Clayton County	182,052	182,052	182,052	100.0	182,052	100.0	0
Gwinnett County	352,910	352,910	352,910	100.0	352,910	100.0	0
Cobb County	447,745	447,745	447,745	100.0	447,745	100.0	0
DeKalb County	545,837	545,837	545,837	100.0	545,837	100.0	0
Fulton County	648,951	648,894	648,951	100.0	648,951	100.0	0